



Talk Boost KS1 FAQ document

General information

What is Talk Boost KS1?

Talk Boost KS1 is a language intervention for 4-7 year olds, delivered by a trained teaching assistant 3 times per week for 10 weeks, with linked whole class activities. It boosts the language and communication skills of children who have not had the opportunity to develop their language skills either through lack of good language models in their early years or because they are learning English for the first time.

What evidence is there to show that Talk Boost KS1 works?

We have evaluated *Talk Boost KS1* twice, once in a study which compared the results of using *Talk Boost KS1* in schools with a group in schools which didn't use it and once as part of a whole school approach to supporting speech language and communication needs, called [A Chance to Talk](#). In both evaluations we found statistically significant results to show that on average children made between 9-18 months progress in language levels over the 10 week period. Key findings and statistical analysis of results from the development stage of *Talk Boost KS1* can be found [here](#).

Which children will benefit from Talk Boost KS1?

Children who have intact language learning ability but who have not had the opportunity to develop their language benefit best from *Talk Boost KS1*. We refer to this group of children as having delayed language; their language is delayed compared to their age equivalent peers but they have no internal difficulty which would hinder them from learning language.

How can Talk Boost KS1 be used with children with Special educational needs and disabilities?

We do not recommend *Talk Boost KS1* for [children with SEN](#) because the pace and design of activities was not designed with their needs in mind. However, with appropriate speech and language therapy support, it might be possible to adapt the materials. You would not get the same rate of progress for this group of children.

What level of intervention is Talk Boost KS1?

Talk Boost KS1 is a targeted intervention. It can be carried out by a trained teaching assistant with whole class activities delivered by the teacher. It comes with a tracker which allows before and after measures to be taken to show progress.

What is the Talk Boost KS1 tracker?

The *Talk Boost KS1* Tracker is designed to record a child's communication and language development in key areas. It can be used to select which children will benefit most from taking part in *Talk Boost KS1* and to evaluate their progress after the intervention. The *Talk Boost KS1* Tracker is not a diagnostic tool and does not in any way replace the detailed speech, language and communication assessment by a speech and language therapist that some children will need.

There is an online version of the Tracker. Using the online Tracker to record your scores enables you to monitor a child's progress. You can also download and print reports to share with colleagues and parents. The Tracker can be found at www.talkboostks1tracker.org.uk. The *Talk Boost KS1* Tracker was developed from an early version of the Communication Trust SLCN Progression Tool originally designed to accompany the intervention.

What is the difference between Talk Boost KS1 and Primary Talk?

Talk Boost KS1 is an intervention for 4 children, aged 4-7, working in a small group. *Primary Talk* is a whole school approach combining training, development and outcome measurements to ensure schools are either Supporting Communication or Enhancing Communications across the whole school.

Does this programme share information with Parents?

Each child chosen by the school to take part in *Talk Boost KS1* will receive a children's activity book which can be taken home and shared with parents and

carers. These books contain simple games and 'Top Tips' to inform parents about supporting effective communication development at home.

Training information

What training is required to deliver Talk Boost KS1?

Teaching assistant and teachers must attend one day's *Talk Boost KS1* training to give them the skills and knowledge they require to understand the rationale behind Talk Boost KS1, identify appropriate children, measure their progress and deliver the intervention.

What is the cost of Talk Boost KS1?

Training delivered by an I CAN Communication Advisor costs £700 + VAT plus £350 for a Starter Kit set of training materials per training pair (KS1 teacher and teaching assistant). The training minimum is one training pair.

Alternatively you access training through one of our regional *Talk Boost KS1* Licensed Tutors. Prices vary for training but this option usually works out cheaper than direct training with I CAN. You will still be required to order the training resources directly from I CAN. To find a local Licensed Tutor click [here](#).

Who can be trained in Talk Boost KS1?

Anyone working in a support capacity with children in Reception, Year one and/or Year two can be trained to deliver the intervention as long as they are accompanied on the training by a teacher who will work with them to select appropriate children, measure their progress and moderate the quality of the delivery of the programme.

How long does Talk Boost KS1 training take?

One day – 5 hours

What are the minimum/maximum numbers of people allowed to be trained in one session?

Training is to teaching assistants and teacher pairs. The maximum is 20 people, for I CAN direct delivery the minimum is 1 pairs (1 teaching assistant and 1 Teacher).

Where is Talk Boost KS1 training held?

Talk Boost KS1 training can be delivered in the school which purchases it or schools can link up to purchase training with one school hosting the training day.

Do all training pairs have to be from the same school or can schools link up and be trained together?

Yes -schools can join together for an I CAN direct delivered course. I CAN *Talk Boost KS1* Licensed Tutors may make their own arrangements.

Can school staff trained in the Talk Boost KS1 intervention train other school staff?

No - training in *Talk Boost KS1* can only be delivered by I CAN Communication Advisors or by I CAN *Talk Boost KS1* Licensed Tutors. This is because it is an evidenced intervention and fidelity to the programme is essential in order to maintain the good results.

Resources information**How are Talk Boost KS1 resources ordered?**

Talk Boost KS1 resources can be ordered by completing the [Resource Order Form](#) and emailing it to talkboostks1@ican.org.uk, faxing it to 0845 225 4072, or calling 0207 843 2515.

Can I just buy the resources without the training?

No – You must be trained to use the *Talk Boost KS1* intervention.

Can additional staff attend Talk Boost KS1 training without purchasing the starter pack?

Guidelines on the number of *Talk Boost KS1* Starter Packs required are as follows:

- One kit per training pair (teacher/teaching assistant). Where another teaching assistant is working with the same year group of children they can attend the *Talk Boost KS1* practitioner training, and share the same kit to deliver the intervention. They need to buy another delegate book for the training.
- Where a school wants multiple groups of children to receive *Talk Boost KS1* across year groups it is important that the school has a kit for each group so that the quality of the delivery of the intervention is not

compromised. Further teacher and teaching assistant training pairs will also need to receive practitioner training in this instance.

- All delegates attending *Talk Boost KS1* practitioner training must have a copy of the delegate book.

Licensed Tutor information

Is the programme only delivered by I CAN trainers or can Speech and Language Therapists become local trainers?

Speech and language therapists and educationalists can become licensed to deliver *Talk Boost KS1* training. You will need to complete an online [application form](#) and show that you meet the necessary competencies.

What are the costs of becoming a Licensed Tutor?

Talk Boost KS1 Tutor training, inclusive of resources is £420. All Licensed Tutors will be required to pay an annual License Fee, which is £60 + VAT. The Licence Fee is charged with your training cost and payable thereafter annually (License period 01 April -31st March). This covers all I CAN licences that you hold.

Where is Talk Boost KS1 Licensed Tutor training held?

Training is held at I CAN central office in central London. Training can be arranged in your local area if you can arrange a cohort of six who meet the *Talk Boost KS1* tutor criteria.

How do trained staff access the evaluation form?

To access the course evaluation form, trained staff should complete the following process:

- go to www.ican.org.uk/validation
- create an account (if you already have an account please login)
- you will receive an automated email with a link
- click on the link to create a password
- save the password
- click on the 'evaluate a course' link which you will find on the left hand side of the page and you will be presented with a list of courses
- click on the 'relevant' course link

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